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Homestead Grays Baseball Club

Negro National League Champions 1937-38-40-41

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Press Release

"THE BEST MONEY MAKER IN COLORED BASEBALL"

April 4, 1942

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAYS AND NEWARK IN RICHMOND, VA.
SUNDAY FOR FIRST SPRING TILT

Pittsburgh, Pa.--Homestead Grays make their first Spring test against Negro National League competition this weekend with Newark Eagles, considered the strongest nine in the Negro major loop. West Point, Va. gets the Saturday attraction (April 11th) and both teams move to Richmond, Va., on Sunday (April 12th) for a double bill.

Although Spring games prove nothing decisive in the official tabulation, they do furnish material for comparison and forecasting. Newsmen and bleacher fans, alike, view them critically and remember throughout the season what player did what, and where each team had strength or weakness.

Players take these games very seriously. They give everything they have. For, it is in these trial tests that players find out for themselves whether they have what they should have. Managers and owners will find out later, but the player keeps his own check and will know first. A good start in the Spring tests, builds up confidence. That is why players are just as anxious to win from the start as in the hot months of August, when they go down the home stretch. This attitude explains, to some extent, why so many baseball thrillers are played during training periods in cities so far from the home of the franchise.

Both clubs have been strengthened this year. The Grays have added the one and only Josh Gibson, Smart receiver, clever handler of pitchers, home run champ and great money player. Sammy Bankhead, dean of ball hawks and best all-round player in the League. Frank Williams, outfielder from Cincinnati

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and line drive clouter. This trio plus Buck Leonard, "Rab Roy" Gaston, Carlisle, Easterling, Vic Harris and Whatley rates the Grays an edge in hitting. Pitching is the same as last year, with the addition of Roy Welmaker, who ranks with the top lefthanders.

Newark has also brought in some fence busters: Dandridge and Willie Wells in the infield and Stone in the outer garden, make the Manleyites a worrisome tribe for the best of pitchers. There is no way to forget Israel, Irwin, Mackey and Day, who carried the batting burden last year and did a swell job of it.

Newark's hitting and left handers Brown, Hill and Hooker gave the Grays many headaches last year in the pennant race. And but for the good luck of overpowering all other Negro National League clubs which, strangely, seemed to have had Newark's number, the Manley crew would be champs this year instead of Homestead Grays. It was that close--or closer.

Naturally, there is no good feeling on either side. Both teams want to get off to a good start. They have arranged to play each other on two Sundays with week day games sandwiched in between. This contest at Richmond and the following Sunday (April 19th) at Griffith Stadium, Washington, D. C.--then on to Newark on May 3rd for what might be the biggest baseball day in the loop.

This barnstorming tour works good for all concerned. It gives players a test in tough competition. It gives managers on both sides an opportunity to know where strength and weakness lie and to map out proper strategy. It gives fans in Richmond, and Washington a chance to see two of the best teams in colored baseball using every legal device in their repertoire--all to get off to a good start.

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over. Mr. Manley

Mrs. Manley - Evidently, my letter to you last week was
misplaced, or undelivered, I wrote you
for your team roster, and whatever
press dope you might have. I have
guessed at this for the Richmond game
but want to be right for the game
in Washington, D.C.

Also send copy to Art Carter, c/o
Aero American, Baltimore, Md.

I am working with the Grays on
National publicity and booking. Art
Carter is handling the Grays setup
in Washington - ~~so~~ that is
why I want him to have the
information, which I am asking for.
Please let me have all dope before
Friday.

Yours for a big-B1B season

John F. Clark